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HAVERFORDWEST
MUNICIPAL BOROUGH
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR
1969

W. J. Y. Speedy, M. B., B. Ch., L. R. C. P & S., L. R. F. P & S., D. P. H.

Medical Officer of Health
Western Combined Health Districts

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M U N I C I P A L B O R O U G H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and the

P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R


for the

Y E A R

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PREFACE TO THE REPORT

District Health Office
County Health Department
Merlins Hill
HAVERFORDWEST.

July, 1970

To: His Worship The Mayor,
Aldermen and Members of
the Haverfordwest Borough
Council.

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We present our combined Annual Report for the year 1969. Detailed information is available in the body of the report. The main items are summarised as follows:-

Population.

The population of the Borough continues to increase. The estimated population of 10,490 for the year 1969 represents an increase of 1.5% over the preceding year, and an increase of approximately 46% since 1947.

Birth-statistics.

The Birth rate was a little below that for the preceding year, but still considerably higher than the National birth rate. There has been a consistently high birth rate in the Borough over the past 20 years.

The number of Illegitimate births dropped over the preceding year. There was an increase in still births. Both of these however, compare favourably with National statistics.

Mortality Statistics.

The General death-rate for the year was higher than the preceding year, and a little higher than the National death rate.

There was a considerable reduction in the number of Cancer deaths. The Cancer death rate for the Borough is much lower than the National rate for 1969.

There was also a decrease in the number of Infant deaths, resulting in a very favourable Infant Mortality rate.

The number of Accidental deaths (4) and Tuberculosis (1), were the same as the preceding year.

Infectious Diseases.

As will be seen from the Table on page 9, the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was small, and did not include anything unusual.

The intensive Immunisation campaign over the past years has greatly decreased the incidence of Infectious Diseases, such as Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis.

Housing

A great deal of tidying up with regard to older property in the Borough is required. Either by way of Closing and Demolition, Clearance or Improvement Grants.

The Council's Housing programme has largely met the housing needs, with the possible exception of housing for the elderly. A further development on the lines of Moravian Court would assist in this direction.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The present method of refuse disposal i.e. tipping, is generally accepted as being old fashioned and unhygienic.

During 1969 your Council, in association with the Haverfordwest Rural District Council, the Milford Haven Urban District Council and the Fishguard & Goodwick Urban District Council, commenced a preliminary survey in respect of the pulverisation of refuse. Several such plants throughout the United Kingdom were visited. There may be a danger of this plan falling down, which would be most disappointing.

This step should not be taken before a comprehensive report can be presented and considered by all the Councils concerned.

Environmental Hygiene and General Sanitation.

There are no outstanding problems in relation to Environmental Hygiene, other than those already stated.

Food Hygiene is relatively good, and the incidence of food-poisoning is very low. We would wish to draw the attention of all persons responsible for the distribution and sale of food, especially pre-packed foods of the vital necessity of complying with Code rules. If a food cannot reach the consumer within the time limit laid down by the Code, it should be either returned to the wholesaler or destroyed.

Details of all matters affecting environmental Hygiene will be found in the body of the report.

We wish to thank the staff of the Public Health Department and all other departments of the Council and their staff for assistance given during the year. And all members of the Council for their courtesy and co-operation.

We remain

Your obedient servants

W.J.Y.Speedy.
Medical Officer of Health.

W.P.S.Rae.
Public Health Inspector.

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CONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES 1969/70

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<u>His Worship The Mayor:</u>	Councillor.Stuart Hayden.F.A.C.C.A.
<u>Deputy Mayor:</u>	Councillor.Griff.C.Morgan O.St.J., F.C.I.S.
<u>Sheriff:</u>	Councillor. Mrs.C.M.Cole.
<u>Chairman - Housing Committee:</u>	Alderman.C.B.James.
<u>Chairman - Public Health Committee:</u>	Councillor.Griff.C.Morgan. O.St.J., F.C.I.S.
<u>Chairman - Finance Committee:</u>	Councillor.T.G.Parry.
<u>Chairman - Borough Committee:</u>	Alderman Canon Richard.E.Williams.
<u>Chairman - Parks and Cemeteries Committee:</u>	Councillor.T.H.Arran.

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Alderman.Colin.T.Price.
Councillor.J.F.Green.T.D.
Councillor.W.E.L.Jenkins.
Councillor.D.J.Evans.
Councillor.Mrs M.H.Williams.
Councillor.Mrs Howell Williams.
Councillor.V.T.Y.Noott.
Councillor.A.G.Rees.
Councillor.W.W.Ladd.

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OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

		<u>Date of Appointment</u>
<u>Town Clerk and Solicitor:</u>	R.Ivor Rees.	23.10.45
<u>Deputy Town Clerk:</u>	Haydn.E.Davies.	1. 1.62
<u>Borough Engineer and Surveyor:</u>	J.B.Hemingway.F.R.I.C.S. F.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.	1.10.47
<u>Borough Treasurer:</u>	F.R.Lowther.F.C.A.	1. 2.24
<u>Public Health Inspector:</u>	W.P.S.Rae.M.A.P.H.I.	4. 8.69
<u>Medical Officer of Health:</u>	W.J.Y.Speedy.M.B.,B.Ch., L.R.C.P&S.,L.R.F.P&S., D.P.H.	1.10.47

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Offices: Town Clerk and Public Health Department.

Picton House. 2 Picton Place.
Haverfordwest. Pembs.

Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Old Grove House. St Thomas Green. Haverfordwest.

Borough Treasurer.

Old Council Chambers.St Mary Street. Haverfordwest.

Telephone - All Departments. Haverfordwest 3771.

Medical Officer of Health.

District Health Office.County Health Department
Merlins Hill. Haverfordwest.

Telephone: Haverfordwest 3345.
Private: Haverfordwest 3251

Population Mid 1969: 10,490

Acreage: 1,420

Rateable value as at 1.4.70: £421,742

Rate: 1963/64	= 12.4d	in £	(County Council precept 8/6)
Rate: 1964/65	= 13.2d	" "	(County Council precept 9/-)
Rate: 1965/66	= 14.10d	" "	(County Council precept 9/-)
Rate: 1966/67	= 16.0	" "	(County Council precept 10/-)
Rate: 1967/68	= 16.0	" "	(County Council precept 10/-)
Rate: 1968/69	= 16.2d	" "	(County Council precept 9/9)
Rate: 1969/70	= 17.6d	" "	(County Council precept 10/-)
Rate: 1970/71	= 17.8d	" "	(County Council precept 10/-)

Estimated product of 1d rate 1970/71 = £1,700

PART I
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VITAL STATISTICS
=====

and

EPIDEMIOLOGY
=====

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

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General Birth Rate	22.1/1000 population.
General Death Rate	12.4/1000 population
Cancer Death Rate	.....	1.4/1000 population
Infant Mortality Rate	.....	13.0/1000 live births.

POPULATION TABLE.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Population.</u>		<u>Natural Increase or decrease.</u>
1947.	7,156	..... }	+255 (5 year period)
1952.	7,284 }	
1957.	8,210 }	+417 (5 year period)
1962.	8,710 }	
1967.	9,640 }	+483 (5 year period)
1968.	10,330	+149
1969.	10,490	+121

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BIRTH STATISTICS

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Classification of births.

	Male.	Live Female.	Total.	Male.	Still Female	Total
Legitimate. ...	105	114	219	1	2	3
Illegitimate ...	6	7	13	0	0	0
	111	121	232	1	2	3

=====

General birth-rates.

Crude birth-rate for Borough 1969 = 22.1/1000 population

Corrected birth-rate " " = 19.0/1000 population

Birth-rate for England & Wales 1969 = 16.3/1000 population.

Still birth-rates.

Still birth-rate for Borough 1969 = 13/1000 Total births

Still birth-rate England & Wales 1969=13/1000 Total births.

Illegitimate Births.

Percentage Illegitimate Births to
Total births for Borough 1969 = 6%

Percentage Illegitimate births to
total births England & Wales 1969 = 8%

=====

Comparative birth table

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Crude birth rate</u>		<u>Number of Still births.</u>		<u>Number of Illegitimate births</u>
1948/66 (annual average)	20.2	...	3½	...	6¾
1967	21.0	...	3	...	14
1968	23.5	...	0	...	15
1969	22.1	...	3	...	13

=====

MORTALITY STATISTICS

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Classification of deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System,	= 27	20	47
Diseases of Brain & Nervous System	= 15	20	35
Cancer (all forms)	= 12	3	15
Diseases of Respiratory System	= 4	1	5
Violent & Accidental deaths	= 2	2	4
Infant deaths	= 2	1	3
Diseases of Kidneys & Urinary System	= 0	1	1
Tuberculosis	= 1	0	1

Totals	= 63	48	111
	=====		

General death rates.

Crude death rate for Borough 1969 = 12.4/1000 population

Corrected death rate for Borough 1969 = 12.4/1000 population

Death rate for England & Wales 1969 = 11.9/1000 population

Deaths in age-groups:-

0 - 1 years = 3	30- 50years = 8
1 - 15 " = 2	50 -70 " =42
15 - 30 " = 2	70+ " =54

Cancer mortality.

Classification.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Abdominal	2	0	2
Respiratory	7	0	7
Others	3	3	6

Total =	12	3	15

Cancer death-rates

Cancer death-rate for Borough 1969 = 1.4/1000 population

Cancer death-rate England & Wales 1969=2.4/1000 population.

<u>Age-groups:-</u>	0 - 30 years =0	50- 70years = 4
	30 - 50 " =4	70+ " = 7

Infant Mortality.

Classification.

	Male.	Female	Total.
Pneumonia ...	1	0	1
Asphyxia ...	1	0	1
Sepsis ...	0	1	1

Total =	2	1	3
	=====		

Infant mortality rates.

Infant Mortality rate for Borough 1969 = 13/1000 live births.

" " " England & Wales 1969=18/1000 live births

<u>Age groups:-</u>	1 - 3 months = 2
	3 - 6 months = 1

Violent and Accidental deaths.
Classification.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Home accidents	0	1	1
Works accidents	1	0	1
Riding accident	0	1	1
Suicide	1	0	1

Total =	2	2	4
	=====		

Tuberculosis mortality.

One death - Male - 50 - 70 years age-group.

Comparative Mortality Table.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Death</u> <u>rate.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>cancer</u> <u>deaths.</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>violent</u> <u>deaths.</u>	<u>Infant</u> <u>deaths.</u>	<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>deaths.</u>
1948/66 (annual average)	11.6 ...	17 ...	4 ...	3 ...	1
1967	11.0 ...	23 ...	2 ...	4 ...	1
1968	9.1 ...	25 ...	4 ...	5 ...	1
1969	12.4 ...	15 ...	4 ...	3 ...	1

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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The following Infectious Diseases were notified in the Borough during the year:-

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Infective Hepatitis	.....	2	3	5
Measles	.....	2	2	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.....	2	1	3
(30-50years = 2)				
(50+ " = 1)				
Whooping Cough	.....	1	0	1

Total =		7	6	13
		=====		

Summary of Immunisations and Vaccinations carried out in the County during 1969.

1969 was a year as far as Immunisations and Vaccinations were concerned a year of consolidation of new schemes and schedules undertaken on the instruction of the Ministry of Health during the year 1968.

	<u>Primary.</u>	<u>Boosters.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Diphtheria.</u>	1,226	2,026	3,252
<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	1,202	-	1,202
<u>Tetanus.</u>	1,505	2,154	3,659
<u>Measles.</u>	850	-	850
<u>Poliomyelitis.</u>	1,306	2,037	3,343
<u>Smallpox.</u>	725	87	812
<u>B.C.G. Vaccinations.</u>	791	-	791
<u>Yellow Fever.</u>	280	-	280

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PART II
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ENVIRONMENTAL
=====

HYGIENE

and

GENERAL SANITATION
=====

H O U S I N G

Housing Statistics

(a) Number of permanent houses completed
in 1969..... = 8

(b) Total number of Post War houses
completed..... =1123

(c) Less 44 Prefabricated houses
demolished..... = 44

Total = -----
1079

(d) The total number of dwellings now
owned by the Council is as follows:-

(i) Pre-war dwellings = 248

(ii) Post-war dwellings..... = 1079

(iii) Miscellaneous..... = 10

Total = -----
1337

(iv) Less houses sold..... 7

Total = -----
1330
=====

(e) Council houses in course of erection
on 31st December 1969. = Nil

(f) Private houses completed in 1969 = 22

(g) Private houses in course of erection
on 31st December, 1969 = 23

Applications for housing as at 31st December, 1969.

1 - bedroom dwellings (including Moravian Court) = 7

2 - bedroom dwellings = 71

3 - bedroom dwellings = 74

4 - bedroom dwellings = 9

Old Peoples dwellings (bungalows)..... = 46

Ability to pay (St Davids Road)..... = 12

Total = -----
219
=====

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

	<u>1954/65</u>	<u>'66</u>	<u>'67</u>	<u>'68</u>	<u>'69</u>	<u>Totals</u>
(a) No. of applications received.....	252	17	12	6	9	296
(b) No. rejected, withdrawn, deferred or not commenced...	67	7	7	2	5	80
(c) No. in progress....	19	22	18	15	8	8
(d) No. completed.	166	10	12	10	10	208
=====						

STANDARD GRANTS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

	<u>1959/65</u>	<u>'66</u>	<u>'67</u>	<u>'68</u>	<u>'69</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
(a) No. of applications received.....	26	3	5	3	1	40
(b) No. rejected, withdrawn, deferred or not commenced..	7	5	2	-	-	12
(c) No. in progress...	-	1	1	4	-	4
(d) No. completed.....	19	1	4	2	2	28
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HOUSING ACT - 1957.

The Haverfordwest No. 1 (Queen's Square - North Street) Clearance Area was declared in September to deal with seven unfit houses. Action to acquire and clear the site will follow by the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order.

Six individual unfit houses were made the subject of Closing Orders and in the case of two unfit houses, formal undertakings were accepted from the owners that they would not be relet until they were made fit.

Many of the older houses do not match up to the modern requirements for a fit house, being damp, lack sufficient natural light and air space, are congested, lack bathrooms, hot water supplies, and inside water closets. Very often they form part of a terrace which includes improved houses so that it is difficult to deal with them under the slum clearance provisions of the Act.

By the help of Improvement Grants owners have in many cases been able to raise standards and prevent properties degenerating into slums.

It is unfortunate that up until now little, or no use of these grants has been made by owners of tenanted houses, but it may be that the increased grants and release from rent control offered by the Housing Act 1969 will secure the improvement of more houses occupied by tenants.

HOUSING ACT-1969.

This Act came into operation in August and its object is to stimulate the improvement of individual houses and to encourage local authorities to upgrade houses and environment on an area basis.

The ceiling for most improvement grants has been raised to £1,000 per house while the full standard grant is now £200. In addition local authorities can receive grants of up to £100 for each house in a general improvement area.

The emphasis of the Act is on persuasion, and powers which existed in the 1964 Housing Act to require the compulsory improvement of houses by the declaration of improvement areas has been withdrawn. The procedure whereby a tenant of a house lacking any of the standard amenities may apply to the local authority who can require the owner to bring the house up to full amenity standard still remains.

No applications have been received for this power to be used, probably because tenants are unaware that this power of compulsion exists. In addition the knowledge that an increased rent would be charged could also act as a deterrent.

The inducement to an owner to improve a house is now very substantial as a completely new principle of giving grants for half the cost of repairs as well as improvements is now in effect. Furthermore, if a tenanted house which is let at a controlled rent is improved the owner can apply to the rent officer for the tenancy to be altered from a controlled tenancy to a regulated tenancy at a fair rent fixed by him, and this would probably be substantially higher than the old rent.

INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

During the year inspections have been made as follows:-

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Houses; initial inspections	7
Houses; revisits	5
Animals, keeping of	1
Drainage inspections and tests	31
Dirty or verminous premises	34
Infectious Disease	1
Offensive accumulations	7
Refuse collection and disposal	47
Miscellaneous visits	99
Interviews	79

HOUSING ACTS.

Houses; initial inspections	113
Houses; revisits	38
Improvement Areas	1
Improvement of Housing outside improvement area.	3

FOOD & DRUGS ACT. 1955.

Bakehouses	4
Bakers shops	7
Butchers shops	13
Fishmongers	2
Fried fish shops	5
Confectioners	1
Greengrocers & Fruiterers	3
Grocers	23
Restaurants and cafes	14
Canteens	1
Hotels	1
Delivery vehicles	1
Other food premises	1

FACTORIES ACT 1961.

Factories with power	12
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VISITS UNDER ACTS.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963.	11
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.	6
Clean Air Act, 1956.	9
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960.	32
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	4
Pet Animals Act, 1951	1
Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967	5

SAMPLING.

Water - Swimming Pool.	14

Total	= 624
	=====

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Completed.</u>
Public Health Act - informal	10	7
Public Health Act - formal	2	2
Clean Air Act, 1956	3	3
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act 1963	8	3
Housing Act - informal	2	1
Housing Act - formal	-	-
Food & Drugs Act. 1955	20	11
Factories Act, 1961	3	3
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	3	3

Total =	51	33
	=====	

CAMPING AND CARAVAN SITES.

There are no sites, either residential or for holiday use within the Borough registered under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. There is, however a serious and long standing problem caused by the unauthorised occupation of land by gypsies and itinerant families. At the end of the year there were twenty five caravans with a total of 64 inhabitants pitched on the roadside at Bethany Lane and Under The Hills. When Part II of the Caravan Sites Act 1968 comes into force in 1970 a duty will be placed on the County Council to provide sufficient sites for gypsies within the area and joint preliminary discussions have taken place.

In two cases where itinerants' caravans had moved on to Council owned land it was possible to persuade them to move on without the need for statutory action. Caravans belonging to persons travelling for fairs, circuses, etc., are exempt from the provisions of the Act, and by reason of the short duration of their stay and the responsible attitude of the occupants, who are invariably members of the Showmans Guild, no problems are created.

Land at the Fenton Trading Estate is used as a family site by a member of the Showmans Guild who is automatically exempt from the licensing provisions of the above Act if he has taken up winter quarters between the beginning of October in any year and the end of March the following year.

=====

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT - 1960

Very little action has been necessary under the provisions of this Act. Only two complaints of noise nuisance were received, one regarding the noise from a compressor running during the evening and one about noise and vibration caused by the Central Electricity Generating Board's power station at Cartlett. In the first instance screening of the compressor reduced the noise, and as the power station became surplus to the Board's requirements and was closed, the final solution to this problem was achieved.

A frequent source of annoyance is the use of pneumatic road drills which have not been properly muffled. A considerable reduction in the intensity of noise can be achieved by fitting insulating sound mufflers and representations have been made to the Water, Electricity and Gas undertakings, and plant-hire contractors to fit these mufflers when works are being carried out in built up areas. In all cases this was done although the Statutory Undertakers are exempted from the provisions of the Noise Abatement Act.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Section 3 of this Act requires anyone installing a new furnace of a heating capacity greater than 55,000 B.T.U.s. per hour to notify the local authority and give details of the furnace. One such notification was received in relation to an oil fired boiler.

No complaints were received regarding smoke, dust or fume emission from industrial premises. Several contraventions of the Act were dealt with by sending of warning letters. These arose mainly from the indiscriminate burning of trade wastes. No statutory action was found necessary.

Parts of the CleanAir' Act 1968 which amends and strengthens the powers given under the main Act were brought into force in October by the Clean Air Act 1968 (Commencement No 2.) Order 1969. Additional powers to require grit and dust arresting equipment and further control on the height of new chimney stacks for large furnaces were prescribed. These are provisions relating mainly to heavy industry and at present have little application in our district which is virtually free from industrial atmospheric pollution.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 and 1951.

It was necessary to obtain a magistrate's order for the compulsory removal of two persons, both of whom were living in the same premises. They were in need of care and attention and would not voluntarily enter welfare accommodation.

No burials were carried out by the local authority under the provisions of this Act.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The following are the number of premises within the Borough registered by the local authority.

Offices	91
Retail Shops	202
Wholesale shops, warehouses	13
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	33

Total =	339
	=====

Number of inspections carried out = 135

Standards vary greatly and much work is required before all premises are satisfactory.

During the year the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act (Hoist and Lifts) Regulations 1969 were brought into force. These regulations prescribe safety precautions and make provision for the testing of lifts in premises covered by the Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

Number of properties infested with rats.	116
Number of properties infested with mice.	154
Number of visits in connection with rodent control.	890

No major infestations of rats were found. This can be attributed to the conscientious manner in which this work is carried out. All notifications are attended to immediately and treatment is carried out until the infestation is cleared.

In addition many precautionary visits were made by the rodent operator to premises where potential harbourages exist.

Permanent baiting points are maintained at the refuse tip and at other points where re-infestations are likely to exist.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections.	Number of	
			Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i)Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii)Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local authorities.	109	10	3	-
(iii)Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local authority.	6	2	-	-
Total	115	12	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Referred:-				
	Found	Remedied	To HM. Inspector.	By HM Inspr	
<hr/>					
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>					
Total	3	3	-	-	-
<hr/>					

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

This work is carried out by the rodent operator.

Number of premises disinfested Nil

Number of premises where disinfestation was carried out 42

Most of the above disinfestations were in connection with ordinary domestic pests such as cockroaches, flies., etc, but in three instances the complete disinfestation of verminous houses was necessary.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

During the year one of the refuse collection vehicles, a 14 year old Fordson sideloader, was taken out of service and scrapped. The whole of the refuse collection was carried out by two Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft tipping vehicles manned by a driver and crew of three loaders. A new 35 cu.yard fore and aft tipping refuse lorry was ordered and when delivered will replace the older of the two vehicles now in use. This in turn will be held as a stand by vehicle in case of breakdowns and general use apart from house to house collection.

The paper sack system is in operation in approximately 1000 dwellings. A weekly collection is maintained where the above system is established, and other areas of the town receive a twice weekly collection.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse collected in the Borough is brought for disposal to the Haroldston refuse tip. A full time attendant using a Bristol Taurus tracked vehicle controls and covers the tipping area and every effort is made to ensure that refuse is left uncovered for as short a time as possible despite difficulties in obtaining suitable top cover. Daily spraying of the tip during the summer months keeps the fly nuisance to a minimum and continuous systematic rodent control measures keeps the area free from rats.

In order to evaluate the advantages of a joint refuse disposal plant, meetings have taken place with representatives of Haverfordwest Rural District Council, Milford Haven Urban District Council, and Fishguard Urban District Council. It has been agreed in principle that a pulverisation plant would be suitable for the needs of the Authorities concerned and visits were made to study various plants under working conditions. The present available tipping space is becoming exhausted, and if the joint disposal scheme does not come into effect it will be necessary in the near future to acquire land for further tipping.

STREET SCAVENGING

Sweeping and weeding was carried out by four street sweepers supplemented for several months by the employment of two students during summer vacation. In addition to the above, a mechanical sweeper manned by a driver was in use. The use of this vehicle was persevered with despite initial setbacks and much criticism. Modifications & a complete overhaul during the latter part of the year enabled the machine to operate successfully for the first time. With the benefit of hindsight one can now say that a larger more powerful machine would have served our purposes better.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspection of Premises.

79 visits were made during the year to food premises.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows:-

Sale and storage of Ice Cream	=	60
Manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	=	1
Manufacture of Sausages etc	=	8

The routine inspection of food premises shows a considerable variation in the attention paid to food hygiene. Many traders work to standards higher than the minimum legally enforceable by the Food Hygiene Regulations, but many businesses are carried on in old, badly adapted buildings where it is difficult for even the most conscientious trader to operate satisfactorily.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Six complaints were received regarding the sale of unsound food. These related to bacon infested with maggots, unsound sausages, and three cases where food was affected by moulds.

No prosecutions were instituted and warning letters were sent to the retailers or manufacturers as appropriate.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.

There are no milk pasteurising or bottling plants in the Borough. Routine sampling within the Borough is carried out by the staff of the Weights and Measures Department of the County Council.

There are 23 distributors registered by the Local Authority under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959.

WATER SUPPLY.

Town Supply.

The water undertaking is the Pembrokeshire Water Board which maintains a piped supply to all domestic properties in the Borough. Routine bacteriological sampling is carried out by the Board and the results of these samples are notified to the Medical Officer of Health.

Swimming Baths.

The Haverfordwest Public Swimming Pool was opened during the year and routine bacteriological sampling of the water was commenced. 37 samples were reported as free from b.coli organisms, and in the remaining three cases these organisms were found in only insignificant numbers. Twice daily tests for free and combined chlorine are carried out and recorded by the staff at the pool, and these readings taken in conjunction with the results of the bacteriological samples show that the water is maintained in a very satisfactory condition.

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